

- (a) actively immunizing a pregnant ruminant with an antigen by any two routes of administration selected from the group consisting of intramammary (IMM), intraperitoneal (IP), and intramuscular (IM); and
  - (b) actively immunizing said ruminant with an antigen by a third administration route selected from the group consisting of intramammary (IMM), intraperitoneal (IP), and intramuscular (IM),
- with the proviso that all three administration routes are different.

48. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47, wherein the two routes of administration in step (a) are IP and IM, and the third administration route of step (b) is IMM.

49. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47; wherein the two active immunizations of step (a) are effected sequentially, apart in time, or concurrently.

50. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 49, wherein the two active immunizations of step (a) are effected concurrently.

51. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47, wherein the active immunizations of step (a) and step (b) are effected sequentially, apart in time, or concurrently.

52. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47; wherein step (a) and step (b) are repeated at least once prior to parturition.

53. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47, wherein step (a) is repeated twice, prior to parturition.

54. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 53, wherein each step (a) is effected at an interval in the range of 2 to 8 weeks.

55. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 54, wherein each step (a) is effected at an interval in the range of 2 to 4 weeks.

56. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 52, wherein step (a) is effected 6 to 14 weeks prior to parturition, the first repeat step (a) is effected at 2 to 10 weeks prior to parturition, and the last step (a) is effected at 1 to 4 weeks prior to parturition.

57. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 56, wherein step (a) is effected 8 to 14 weeks prior to parturition, the first repeat step (a) is effected at 4 to 8 weeks prior to parturition, and the last step (a) is effected at 1 to 4 weeks prior to parturition.

58. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 57, wherein step (a) is effected 8 weeks prior to parturition, the first repeat step (a) is effected at 4 weeks prior to parturition, and the last step (a) is effected at 1 week prior to parturition.

59. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 52, wherein step (b) is repeated once prior to parturition.

60. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 52, wherein the repetitions of step (b) are effected at 1 to 6 week intervals.

61. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 60, wherein the repetition is at 2 week intervals.

62. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 59, wherein the first step (b) is effected 3 to 12 weeks prior to parturition, and the second step (b) is effected at 1 to 10 weeks prior to parturition.

63. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 62, wherein the first step (b) is effected 4 to 8 weeks prior to parturition, and the second step (b) is effected at 2 to 4 weeks prior to parturition.

64. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 63, wherein the first step (b) is effected 4 weeks prior to parturition and the second step (b) is effected at 2 weeks prior to parturition.

65. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of bacteria, yeasts, viruses, mycoplasmas, proteins, haptens, animal tissue extracts, plant tissue extracts, spermatozoa, fungi, pollens, dust, and a combination thereof.

66. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 65, wherein the antigen is a yeast antigen.

67. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 66, wherein the yeast is *Candida albicans*.

68. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 65, wherein the antigen is a protein antigen.

69. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47, wherein the antigen is formulated as a suspension.

70. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47, wherein the antigen is administered together with a carrier, a diluent, a buffer, an adjuvant, or a combination thereof.

71. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 70, wherein the antigen is administered together with an adjuvant.

72. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 71, wherein the adjuvant is Freund's complete adjuvant (FCA), Freund's incomplete adjuvant (FIC), cholera toxin B subunit, or aluminum hydroxide.

73. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 71, wherein the adjuvant is *Bordetella pertussis*, muramyl dipeptide, a cytokinin, or saponin

74. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 72, wherein the adjuvant is Freund's incomplete adjuvant.

75. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47, wherein the antigen is administered together with an antibiotic.

76. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47, wherein the antigen used in each active immunization is the same or different.

77. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 71, wherein the antigen used in each active immunization is the same.

78. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 47, wherein the pregnant ruminant is a cow, goat, or sheep.

79. (New) The food or dietary supplement of claim 78, wherein the cow is a dairy cow.

80. (New) The food or dietary supplement comprising milk from a ruminant comprising IgA produced by

- (a) actively immunizing a pregnant ruminant with an antigen by any two routes of administration selected from the group consisting of intramammary (IMM), intraperitoneal (IP) and intramuscular (IM); and

- (b) actively immunizing said ruminant with an antigen by a third administration route selected from the group consisting of intramammary (IMM), intraperitoneal (IP) and intramuscular (IM);

with the proviso that all three administration routes are different and wherein a higher IgA titre is produced as compared to an IgA titre produced by conducting step (a) alone.

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